



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/761,815

01/20/2004

Charles W. Marsh

017058-0307819

9990

7590

07/26/2006

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
Suite 200  
11682 El Camino Real.  
San Diego, CA 92130-2092

EXAMINER

HARRIS, ANTON B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/761,815	Applicant(s) MARSH ET AL.	
	Examiner Anton B. Harris	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins (6,027,360) in view of Borzi et al. (6,077,102).

Regarding claim 1, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses an electronic assembly, which comprises:

a wiring harness 22;

connectors 18 connected to the wiring harness 22; and,

a body 74, 88 formed to encapsulate the wiring harness 22 and provide access to the connectors 18, but lacks a molded body.

Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 10-16) teaches a molded body 12, 14.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Jenkins by providing a molded body in order to provide electrically insulative material in view of the teachings of Borzi et al.

Regarding claim 2, the teachings of Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 1-31) further include that the body 12, 14 comprises a plastic material (col. 3, lines 15-18).

Regarding claim 3, the teachings of Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 1-31) further include a conductive coating on the outer surface of the body 12, 14.

Regarding claim 4, the teachings of Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 1-31) further include that the conductive coating comprises a conductive paint.

Regarding claim 5, the teachings of Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 1-31) further include that the conductive coating comprises a metallic layer applied to the outer surface of the body 12, 14.

Regarding claim 6, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that a mounting fixture 90 connected to the body 74, 88.

Regarding claim 7, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that the mounting fixture 90 includes a ground connection.

Regarding claim 8, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses a socket (above 92) affixed to the body 74, 88, the socket (above 92) being connected to the wiring harness 22.

Regarding claim 9, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that the socket (above 92) is adapted to receive a relay (figure 5).

Regarding claim 10, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that a relay (figure 5) connected to said socket (above 92).

Art Unit: 2831

Regarding claim 11, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that shielding (figure 1) for said wiring harness 22 is encapsulated within the body 74, 88.

Regarding claim 12, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that said shielding (figure 1) includes a conductive material surrounding the wiring harness 22.

Regarding claim 13, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that said connectors 18 are molded into the body 74, 88.

Regarding claim 14, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that said wiring harness 22 includes a plurality of ends (figure 1) that are each connected to one of said connectors 18.

Regarding claim 15, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that said wiring harness 22 includes three ends (figure 1).

Regarding claim 16, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that the mounting fixtures 90 are molded into the body 74, 88.

Regarding claim 17, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses an electronic assembly comprising:

- a plurality of connectors 18 ;

- a wiring harness 22 connected to said plurality of connectors 18, and

- a body 74, 88 formed to encapsulate said wiring harness 22 and to cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors 18,

wherein said body 74, 88 has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold said plurality of connectors 18 and said wiring harness 22 as one piece, but lacks a molded body.

Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 10-16) teaches a molded body 12, 14.

Art Unit: 2831

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Jenkins by providing a molded body in order to provide electrically insulative material in view of the teachings of Borzi et al.

Regarding claim 18, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses that said body 74, 88 includes a base portion 74 that extends between said plurality of connectors 18.

Regarding claim 19, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses a plurality of mounting fixtures 90 that are molded into the body 74, 88.

Regarding claim 20, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses an electronic assembly comprising:

- a plurality of connectors 18;

- a wiring harness 22 connected to said plurality of connectors 18, and

- a body 74, 88 formed to encapsulate said wiring harness 22 and to cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors 18, said body 74, 88 including a base portion 74 that extends between said plurality of connectors 18, but lacks a molded body.

Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 10-16) teaches a molded body 12, 14.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Jenkins by providing a molded body in order to provide electrically insulative material in view of the teachings of Borzi et al.

Regarding claim 21, Jenkins (col. 3, lines 1-31) discloses an electronic assembly comprising:

- a plurality of connectors 18;

Art Unit: 2831

a wiring harness 22 connected to said plurality of connectors 18, and a body 74, 88 formed to encapsulate said wiring harness 22 and to cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors 18, wherein at least two of the plurality of connectors 18 are in electrical communication with one another, but lacks a molded body.

Borzi et al. (col. 3, lines 10-16) teaches a molded body 12, 14.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Jenkins by providing a molded body in order to provide electrically insulative material in view of the teachings of Borzi et al.

Regarding claim 22, the teachings of Borzi et al. further includes that the molded body 12, 14 comprises a plastic material.

Regarding claim 23, the teachings of Borzi et al. further includes a conductive coating on the outer surface of the molded body 12, 14.

Regarding claim 24, the teachings of Borzi et al. further includes a mounting fixture 88 molded into the molded body 12, 14.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 08 May 2006 with respect to claims 1-20 have been fully considered; but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments regarding claim 1 and its depending claims 2-16; claim 17 and its depending claims 18 and 19; and 20 the recitation of "an electronic assembly" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process

Art Unit: 2831

or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). Also Applicant's argument that the wire harness is not encapsulated, Examiner disagrees. Jenkins discloses a body 74, 88 formed to encapsulate said wiring harness 22. Figure 1 shows element 22 having parts that are encapsulated by elements 74 and 88.

### *Conclusion*

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anton B Harris whose telephone number is (571) 272-1976. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm.




Art Unit: 2831

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr.

Dean Reichard, can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

abh

7/24/06

  
DEAN A. REICHARD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800 7/24/06